KALTAG SUBSISTENCE KING SALMON DRIFT FISHERY, SCALE SAMPLING PROJECT

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The scale sampling project conducted at Kaltag in June and July 2001 is the 3rd year of a continuing project to collect King Salmon scale sample. Along with the samples, the lengths and sex of each salmon were noted.

The project at Kaltag utilizes collecting samples in the ongoing subsistence drift net fishery. This allows the project to obtain samples uniformly throughout the fall duration of the kings salmon run as it passes through the Middle Yukon River area.

The sampling occurs on King salmon caught in the traditional subsistence king salmon drift net fishery. This fishing activity occurs in an area directly across the Yukon River from Kaltag downstream approximately 3 miles in water along the eastern bank. See attachment "A".

Nets that were utilized in subsistence drift net fishery are primarily 100'-150' long and 29 meshes deep. The individual meshes are 81/4" stretch.

This years sampling project was conducted by Jackie Nicholas and Anne Esmailka. They were instructed and monitored by last year's project leader, Richard Burnham. All participants are residents of Kaltag.

Once the project began, they collected samples in the morning the evenings. The goals was to collect 150 samples.

Each sample was first measured for length. Then scale samples were collected . Finally, as much as possible, samples were monitored as the subsistence fisherman would "gut" the salmon to more accurately determine the sex of the samples.

Along with scale sampling information collected, salmon head, sample of fin clipped and spaghetti tags from chinook salmon have been sent to the Dept. of Fish and Game, along with the pertinent information involved with those samples.

Last year's scale sampling project provided quality information for the Yukon King Salmon Run. This year's project should also provided valuable information on the age-class, sex and origin (Alaska-Canada) of king salmon caught in the Kaltag Subsistence King Salmon Drift Net Fishery. It is hoped that with continued funding for project such as this, valuable information on our fishery resources will continue being gathered. Also, training and employment of local people can be utilized.

Yukon River District 4 Kaltag chinook salmon subsistence age and sex composition by stratum, and mean length (mm), 2001.

			Brood Year and (Age Group)																			
			1998		1997		1996				1995				1994				1993				Total	
			(1.1)		(1.2)		(1.3)		(2.2)		(1.4)		(2.3)		(1.5)		(2.4)		(1.6)		(2.5)			
Sample Dates	Sample Size		No.	Per	No.	Per.	No	Per.	No.	Per.	No	Per.	No.	Per.	No.	Per.	No.	Per.	No.	Per.	No	Per.	No.	Per.
Jun 28-Jul 1	90	Males	0	0.0	2	2.2	21	23.3	0	0.0	27	30.0	2	2.2	1	1.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	53	58.9
		Females	0	0.0	1	1.1	3	3.4	0	0.0	25	27.8	0	0.0	7	7.8	1	1.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	37	41.1
		Subtotal	0	0.0	3	3.3	24	26.7	0	0.0	52	57.8	2	2.2	8	8.9	1	1.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	90	100.0
Jul 2-Jul 5	74	Males	0	0.0	0	0.0	5	6.8	0	0.0	25	33.8	0	0.0	2	2.7	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	32	43.2
		Females	0	0.0	2	2.7	14	18.9	0	0.0	24	32.4	0	0.0	2	2.7	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	42	56.8
		Subtotal	0	0.0	2	2.7	19	25.7	0	0.0	49	66.2	0	0.0	4	5.4	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	74	100.0
Seasonal Total	164	Males	0	0.0	2	1.2	26	15.8	0	0.0	52	31.7	2	1.2	3	1.8	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	85	51.8
		Females	0	0.0	3	1.8	17	10.4	0	0.0	49	29.9	0	0.0	9	5.5	1	0.6	0	0.0	0	0.0	79	48.2
		Total	0	0.0	5	3.0	43	26.2	0	0.0	101	61.6	2	1.2	12	7.3	1	0.6	0	0.0	0	0.0	164	100.0
Mean Length		Males	0.0		600.0		740.0		0.0		848.0		805.0		875.0		0.0		0.0		0.0			
Std. Error			0.0		40.0		11.0		0.0		8.0		25.0		15.0		0.0		0.0		0.0			
Mean Length		Females	0.0		553.0		752.0		0.0		851.0		0.0		873.0		830.0		0.0		0.0			
Std. Error			0.0		5.0		20.0		0.0		7.0		0.0		29.0		0.0		0.0		0.0			

Preliminary Data

Yukon River District 4 Kaltag chinook salmon subsistence age and sex composition by stratum, and mean length (mm), 2000.

			Brood Year and (Age Group)																			
			1997		1996		1995				1994				1993				1992			
Strata	Sample Size		(1.1)		(1.2)		(1.3)		(2.2)		(1.4)		(2.3)		(1.5)		(2.4)		(1.6)		(2.5)		Total	
			No.	Per.	No.	Per.	No.	Per.	No.	Per.	No.	Per.	No.	Per.	No.	Per.	No.	Per.	No.	Per.	No.	Per.	No.	Per.
Seasonal Total	126	Males	0	0.0	3	2.4	39	31.0	0	0.0	28	22.2	0	0.0	5	4.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	75	59.5
		Females	0	0.0	0	0.0	10	7.9	0	0.0	31	24.6	0	0.0	10	7.9	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	51	40.5
		Total	0	0.0	3	2.4	49	38.9	0	0.0	59	46.8	0	0.0	15	11.9	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	126	100.0
Mean Length		Males	0.0		543.0		709.0		0.0		800.0		0.0		912.0		0.0		0.0		0.0			
Std. Error			0.0		11.0		9.0		0.0		13.9		0.0		34.0		0.0		0.0		0.0			
Mean Length		Females	0.0		0.0		691.0		0.0		829.0		0.0		902.0		0.0		0.0		0.0			
Std. Error			0.0		0.0		19.0		0.0		10.3		0.0		22.0		0.0		0.0		0.0			

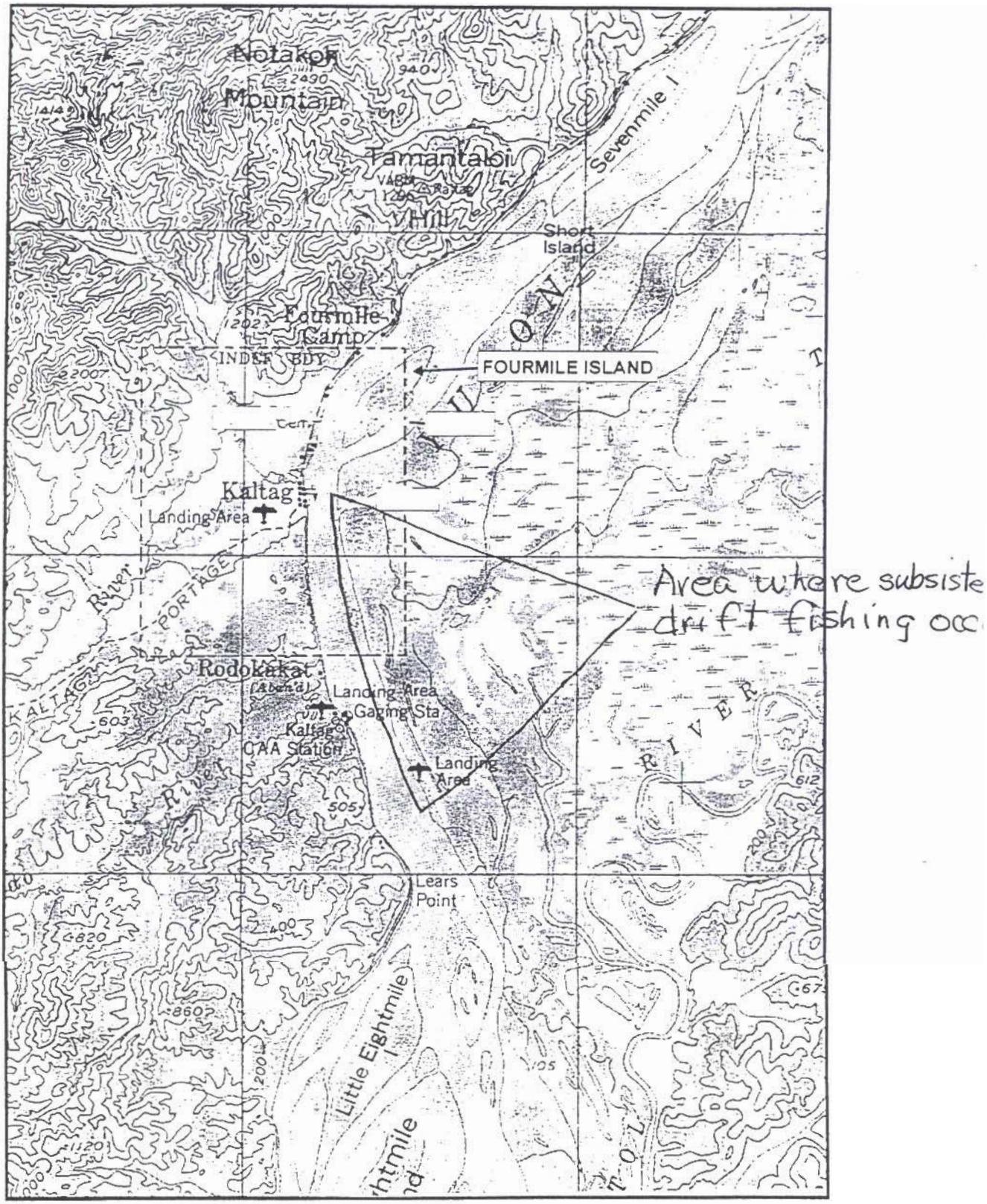

Figure 1. Map showing drift gillnet site locations, Kaltag Drift Gillnet Test Fishery, 2000.